



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday- November 7, 2007

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

MARION COUNTY CAREER CRIMINAL CONVICTED ON FEDERAL FIREARM AND AMMUNITION CHARGE

Ocala, Florida - A jury in U.S. District Court today found KELVIN LEVOID SMITH, 36, of Dunnellon, Florida, guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. SMITH faces a minimum mandatory term of 15 years' and up to life imprisonment. Sentencing will be scheduled before the Honorable Wm. Terrell Hodges, Senior United States District Judge.

According to the evidence presented at trial, SMITH was involved in a traffic accident at a convenience store in Ocala in the early morning hours of December 3, 2006. When police officers investigated the accident, they found two loaded handguns in the car SMITH had been driving, along with \$4,600 and 266 grams of a white powdery substance that resembled cocaine hydrochloride. SMITH told officers that there was a firearm in the car when officers questioned him. SMITH, a 12-time convicted felon, is prohibited from possessing either firearms or ammunition under federal law.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Marion County, the City of Ocala Police Department, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from

ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Tanya Davis Wilson.